



## State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations GUBERNATORIAL PROCLAMATION

### Anti-Bullying Awareness Month

**WHEREAS**, bullying has become a significant problem in our school systems, that some consider an epidemic; and

**WHEREAS**, today there are 160,000 children every day who miss school as a result of bullying, leaving a 15% absentee rate for students; and

**WHEREAS**, bullying can lead to serious immediate and long term psychological effects for those being bullied, including a positive correlation between bullying victims and suicide; and

**WHEREAS**, to help combat bullying teens need to be educated on how to be bigger than a bully; and


**WHEREAS**, we need to strive to raise awareness in order to reduce bullying in our school systems; and


**WHEREAS**, we need to promote positive relationships amongst our teens to have a safer and happier school environment; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lincoln D. Chafee**, Governor of the State of Rhode Island, do hereby proclaim February, 2013 as Anti-Bullying Awareness Month in the State of Rhode Island and encourage all state residents to recognize the importance of this month.



Given under my hand and the great seal of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, this 31<sup>ST</sup> day of January, 2013

  
Lincoln D. Chafee  
Governor

  
A. Ralph Mollis  
Secretary of State